

THE ERNEST GAINES COLLECTION

MSS # 163

Arranged and described by Molly Dohrmann
December 2007

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
Jean and Alexander Heard Library
Vanderbilt University
419 21st. Avenue South
Nashville, Tennessee 37240
Telephone: (615) 322-2807

Biographical Note

Ernest J. Gaines, a prominent African-American writer was born on January 15, 1933. He grew up in the slave quarters of a plantation in Pointe Coupee, Louisiana, a place which had an important influence on his fiction. He received his early education there in a schoolroom in a plantation church. When he was fifteen he moved to Vallejo, California to live with his mother and step-father. When he was seventeen he wrote his first novel. It was rejected by a publisher. He later rewrote it and published it as *Catherine Carmier*.

He served with the Army for two years and won a writing fellowship to Stanford University. Among his many published works are his novels *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman* (1971); *A Lesson Before Dying* (1993); and *In My Father's House* (1978). Several of his works have been made into film, most notably the television version of *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman* which aired in 1974. Gaines has received many honors and awards for his work.

Since 1984 he divides his time between San Francisco and Lafayette, Louisiana where he teaches a creative writing workshop every fall at the University of Louisiana.

Scope and Content Note

This small collection was a gift from John Peede to Vanderbilt University in June of 1997.

It consists of one uncorrected proof copy of *In My Father's House* and a holograph manuscript fragment of 32 pages front and back of the same title.

File Listing

Publications

- 1) *In My Father's House* - Holograph Manuscript Fragment
- 2) *In My Father's House* - Holograph Manuscript Fragment
- 3) *In My Father's House* - Holograph Manuscript Fragment
- 4) *In My Father's House* - Holograph Manuscript Fragment
- 5) *In My Father's House* - Holograph Manuscript Fragment
- 6) *In My Father's House* - Uncorrected Proof, New York, Alfred Knopf, 1978